

SANDOWN-SHANKLIN
(ISLE OF WIGHT)
URBAN DISTRICT



Annual Report

of the
Medical Officer of Health,
and
Sanitary Inspector,
1944.



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ANNUAL REPORT, 1944.

To the Chairman and Councillors.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen and Madam,

Acting on the Ministry of Health's Circular (10/44 15th Feb. 44) this Annual Report is practically confined to statistical details and will fulfil the function of an interim report for the record of vital and sanitary statistics for the year 1944.

Your obedient servants,

HAYWARD CARPENTER, M.B., B.S.,

D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.

HENRY K. BRIDGMAN, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.

STATISTICS

(1) General.

Area of Urban District (in acres)	3,509
Population	9,770
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to rate book	4,010
Rateable Value	£132,072
Sum Represented by 1d. rate	£430/0/0

(2) Vital.

Live Births

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	17.0
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of England and Wales	17.6

Still Births

Rate per 1,000 live and still births	6.0
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Deaths.	M.	F.	Total
	79	95	174

Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	17.8
Death rate England and Wales	11.6
Deaths from puerperal causes	—

Death of Infants under 1 year of age.	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate 1	—	1	
Illegitimate —	—	—	
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births ...		6.0	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		6.7	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		—	
Death from measles		—	
Death from whooping cough		—	
Deaths from Cancer		22	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

There is no change to report. Details are available on reference to 1938 records.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES (Excluding non-Civilians).

Disease				Admitted		
				Total Cases Notified	to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	9	8	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	1	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	168	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	44	1	1
Total				225	10	1

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Measles	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Meningitis	Whooping Cough
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	4
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	7
2 " " 3	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	5
3 " " 4	1	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	5
4 " " 5	1	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	4
5 " " 10	4	—	—	—	—	96	—	—	18
10 " " 15	2	—	—	—	1	11	—	—	—
15 " " 20	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
20 " " 35	1	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
35 " " 45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 " " 65	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	9	—	1	2	1	168	—	—	44

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES

DEATHS

Age Periods	NEW CASES			DEATHS		
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
	M.	F.		M.	F.	
1 — 5	—	—	1	—	—	1
5 — 15	1	1	3	—	—	—
15 — 20	—	1	1	—	—	—
20 — 25	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	6	3	10	2	—	2
35 — 45	2	1	3	1	—	1
45 — 55	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	1	1	1	2
65 and over	3	—	3	2	—	2
Totals	12	6	22*	3	3	8

*This total includes 1 old case left Island and returned, 1 old case "lost sight of" and returned, 1 posthumous notification and 3 transfers from the mainland.

Non-notifiable infectious diseases (Schools return) :—

Chicken pox	24	German Measles	8
Scabies	1	Influenza	—
Mumps	1	Ringworm	2
Impetigo	1		

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the area and its several parts may be regarded as satisfactory both in quantity and quality. During the year under review five samples of water (Sandown 3 and Shanklin 2), both raw and treated, were obtained and submitted for Bacteriological examination, and the results obtained indicate a high degree of purity.

One sample (Sandown) was submitted for Chemical examination and the report again indicates a satisfactory standard.

All houses in the district have a direct supply of water.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

2. HOUSING (Public Health Act 1936).

1. Number of primary inspections made	...	...	72
2. Notices served (including reminders)	...	...	81
3. Statutory Notices served	...	...	5
4. Revisits (Work in progress, etc.)	...	...	153
5. Cesspools (Defective or overflowing)	...	...	4
6. Premises in such a state as to be a nuisance			4

Two aged persons were found living under conditions that necessitated attention. Subsequent action resulted in their admission to hospital.

No applications were received during the year for Certificates under the Mortgage Interest (Restriction) Act or Landlord and Tenant (War Damage Amendment Act) 1941.

The question of housing repairs continues to be one of difficulty and delay as the bulk of available labour is diverted to War Damage repairs. The extent of this work is not always appreciated but a report made by the Surveyor during the close of the year indicates that with the exception of a few one-man builders, total mobilisation of labour to meet the demand of War Damage repairs has been necessary.

3. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.

(a) Meat Allocation Depot.

1. Number of visits to depot	...	...	107
2. Notices (Cleansing etc.)	...	...	4
3. Carcasses Inspected :—			
Beasts	...	...	90
Pigs	...	...	14
Calves	...	...	472
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	454
Imported Meat :—			
Beef (Qrs)	...	...	330
Mutton (Carcases)	...	...	2124
American Pork (Cwts)	...	...	223
Hog Sides	...	...	40
4. Conditions rendering food unsound were found in five instances :—Imported Pork 345lbs and Beef 66lbs. Total weight surrendered 411 lbs.			

(b) **Self-Suppliers.**

1. Visits	...	...	...	...	...	27
2. Carcases inspected (Pigs)	...	...	...	...	...	12
3. Licences obtained following slaughter	...	...	...	...	...	12

A side of bacon in store for about five weeks from the date of curing commenced to develop a rather offensive surface coating, mainly composed of amorphous, crystalline material and fat, yet evidence of incipient decomposition in the flesh was entirely absent.

As it was maintained by the owner that deterioration resulted from incorrect handling or processing samples of exudate were submitted to the Public Analyst and Government Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service with negative results.

(c) **Butcher's Shops.**

1. Number of visits to butcher shops	...	...	...	...	...	70
2. Total weight of all unsound food :—	3163 lbs.					
4½ lbs Canned pork meat.	...					
22½ lbs Margarine.						
82 lbs Beef—Top piece. English.						
1252 lbs. Beef (R and P) Imported.						
552 lbs. Pork. Imported.						
1250 lbs. Mutton. 38 Carcases, 4 trunks and one short fore.						
Imported.						

It must be recorded that the condition of imported meat allocated to this area has not been satisfactory and resulted in 3136 lbs being condemned. Although this meat was obtained at various shops it in no way reflects on local traders who have been obliged to trade under conditions of stress and difficulty.

Improvement in the condition of imported meat was effected following representation to the Ministry of Food.

(d) **Food Stores and Shops.**

1. Visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	...	205
2. Visits (War Damage-Salvage sorting etc)						21
3. Certificates (Spoilage W/D)	...	...	...	...	...	11
4. Foodstuff surrendered (Spoilage W/D)						198 lbs.
6 lbs Butter, 3 lbs Oatmeal, 4 lb. Flour, 18 lbs Margarine, 30 lbs Lard, 61 lbs Rice, 28 lbs Jam and 48 lbs Sugar.						
5. Samples for analysis (Gelatine 3. Pepper 1)						4

6. Unsound food surrendered :— 351 tins of various foods (447 lbs) 135 lbs Pearl Barley, 28½ lbs Ham, 236½ lbs Bacon 24 lbs Butter, 12 lbs Cheese, 184 lbs Chocolates/Sweets, 18½ lbs. Luncheon Sausage, 2 lbs Margarine, 2½ lbs Meat Galantine, 12 lbs Pudding Mixture, 120 lbs Preserves, 38 lbs Sugar, 30 lbs Sausages, 81 lbs Flour, 4 lbs Semolina, 5 lbs Soya Flour, 308 lbs Kippers, 203 lbs Wet fish, 2½ lbs peas, 20 lbs Oatmeal, 48 lbs Rice and 20 lbs Dried Fruit. Weight of unsound food surrendered (excluding War Damage) 1980 lbs
Total Weight of Unsound Food 2178 lbs

7. Sub-standard sweets reported to Food Office for immediate sale 36 lbs
As will be observed, apart from the normal examination of food intended for human consumption, the inspection and salvage sorting of foodstuffs damaged by enemy action is a problem demanding time and vigilance.

Food Samples.

Again, as a precautionary measure, samples of gelatine have been obtained, and it is pleasing to record improvement in the quality of this substance, due in part to the fact that attention had been drawn to the unsatisfactory quality of available gelatine and publication of provisional standards by the Society of Public Analysts pending any official regulations. The comparative analysis are shown by the following table (figures indicate P.P.M)

YEAR	ARSENIC	COPPER	ZINC	LEAD	IRON
1943	5 0 2. 4	150. 0 17 0	9. 0 —	4. 0	— Tce
1944	1. 2	26. 0	Tce	—	28.8

(e) Food Poisoning.

1. No cases reported.

Efforts to foster the belief that certain food products are particularly beneficial to health or are of outstanding purity continue unchallenged. Such efforts are to be deplored as generally speaking such designations may with truth be applied to every food, providing no injurious substance has been added or beneficial or essential ingredient abstracted in the process of manufacture or distribution.

Slogans are to-day popular, and the following addition to the evergrowing list may not be amiss "Fads in Food are Foolish."

(f) **Dairies and Cowsheds.**

1. Dairies. Visits and Inspections	...	69
2. Cowsheds. Visits and Inspections	...	27
3. Cowsheds redrained	... ..	1
4. Dairies (Salvage sorting)	... ..	3
5. Samples for Biological examination	...	28
6. Samples required by Ministry of Agriculture (Resazurin Test)	... ..	0
7. Unsound foodstuff surrendered :—3 tins of evaporated milk and 37 eggs.		

“ MILK ANALYSIS TABLE.”

Year	Number of samples examined	BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.	
		B. Tuberculosis Absent.	B. Tuberculosis Present.
1943	33.	33.	0.
1944	28	27.	1.

Acting on information from this Authority the Divisional Inspector, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, confirmed the fact that milk from a local farm contained living tubercle bacilli. The two cows concerned were slaughtered.

4. DISINFESTATION.

1. Premises	... ..	8
2. Visits and inquiries	... ..	14
3. Loads of bedding treated	... ..	2
4. Rooms disinfested	... ..	21

5. INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

1. Visits and inquiries	... ..	23
2. Premises	... ..	7
3. Rooms and bedding fumigated	... ..	8
4. Library books treated	... ..	15

Non-Notifiable Disease.

1. Visits	... ..	1
2. Premises	... ..	1
3. Loads of bedding destroyed	... ..	1

Tuberculosis

1. Visits and inquiries	... ..	7
2. Premises	... ..	4
3. Rooms and bedding fumigated	4
4. Respirators destroyed	3

Small Pox Precautions.

1. Visits	3
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Typhus Precautions.

1. Visits 2

6. DIPHTHERIA PROPYLAXIS. (Immunisation).

PERCENTAGE OF CHILD POPULATION CONSIDERED IMMUNISED AT 31.12.44.	
Age under 5 years.	Age 5 to 15 years.
53.1%	83.04%

7. GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

1. Visits and inquiries 10
2. Claims investigated in respect of damage
to household property 2

8. FACTORY ACT.

1. Inspections 8
2. Notices (Sanitary accommodation) ... 2
3. Reports to H.M. Factory Inspector ... 1

9. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

1. Inspections 31
2. Notices (Cleansing) 1

10. MOSQUITO CONTROL.

1. Inspections (Static Water Tanks) ... 14
2. Larvæ observed 0

Although clean physically and free from decomposing vegetable matter, one large Static Water Tank (No. 435) had to be emptied, cleansed and refilled, as the contents developed a most distinct and unpleasant smell. The only explanation for this may be attributed to a reaction between the chemically treated water and tannin from the leaves of the lime trees surrounding.

It has been necessary to keep all the main static tanks under observation as in the event of pollution by nitrogenous matter the active and poisonous mosquito (*Theobalda Annulata*) is very liable to breed.

11. PUBLIC AIR RAID SHELTERS.

1. Inspections 10
2. Notices (Unsatisfactory sanitary arrangements) 1

12. RODENT CONTROL.

The Survey which included a general reconnaissance of the area together with a detailed examination of all shops, stores, restaurants, canteens and warehouses, in fact any place used for the storage or manufacture of food, was completed and forwarded to the Divisional Rodent Officer, Ministry of Food, Reading. In this respect we have the distinction of being the only District that made the survey required by the Ministry of Food.

The degree of infestation for this area is slight, out of 249 premises inspected 15 were infested.

13. WARDENS POSTS (A.R.P.)

1. Inspections	...	...	...	...	7
General sanitary condition of posts satisfactory.					

14. SHOPS ACT.

1. Visits and inspections	...	...	...	20
2. Notices (Heating 1. Cleansing 2)	...			3

15. ICE CREAM.

1. Inspections (Producers Premises)	...	1
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16. DOMESTIC POULTRY KEEPERS.

Although a large proportion of the local householders, approximately 410, have now become poultry keepers, conditions on the whole remain satisfactory. Action had to be taken in three instances as the birds were kept in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance.

Evidence is provided by the foregoing statistics that every effort is made to encompass all essential duties in so far as the sufficiency of staff will allow.

